

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

In order to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, we have replaced “fail address data” with “failed-address data” in claims 1-27. Also, we have deleted the phrase “for defective cells detected in the test step for the alternative one of row and column” in claim 18.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections are respectfully traversed. Claim 1 does not disclose characteristic constituents for supporting characteristic technical features to be achieved by our claimed repair analysis means 2. We have cancelled claim 1 and amended claim 2 into independent form to include details of the repair analysis means 2. As a result of this amendment, claim 2 is clearly different from the prior art teachings.

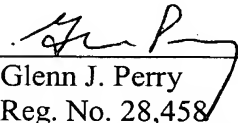
Amended claim 2 requires that the repair analysis means 2 rearranges data to enhance the repair efficiency. On the other hand, the data topology circuit 202 of Shirley’s patent (US Patent 6,324,105) controls the data topology of redundant row in a normal operation after performing a repair analysis. Accordingly, our claimed repair analysis means 2 is different from the data topology circuit 202 of Shirley’s patent.

Even though Muhmenthaler’s patent (U.S. Patent 5,293,386) teaches that the automatic repair device of replaces defective memory cells by using identification data at a repair time, the rearrangement of data is not disclosed anywhere of Muhmenthaler’s patent. Therefore, the automatic repair device of Muhmenthaler’s patent is totally different from our claimed repair analysis means.

Appl. No. 10/080,710
Amdt. dated September 23, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 23, 2003

All outstanding matters having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Glenn J. Perry
Reg. No. 28,458
Telephone: (703) 905-2161
Direct Fax: (703) 738-2277

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP
1600 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, Virginia 22102
Switchboard: (703) 905-2000
Office fax: 703-905-2500